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There is no doubt that hibiscus follow very closely the laws of heredity as laid down and developed by the Mendelian theory, and it is this fact which makes the hibiscus a valuable plant for the scientific worker. (Mendel published his work in 1866 but it was almost completely ignored until about 1900. This article was published in 1913 - Editor) As everyone knows, the colors, shape and sizes of the flowers are quite variable, and they are also single, semi-double, and double.

With this material so rich in variety it is possible to obtain an almost infinite number of new forms. The single ones vary in color from pure white through the entire range of the spectrum down to dark red with the exception of blues and purples. The numbers of doubles, and their colors, however, are much more limited, the extreme limits of the scale being pure canary yellow, and the dark double red. It is necessary for the worker to well establish in his mind the unit character of the different flowers as to size, color, shape, texture and whether single, double or semi-double, and at all times during the breeding to carry in mind these unit characters. The worker should previously determine the characters which are desired and should conduct the breeding in such a way as to

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(From prior page)

produce these characters if possible, not endeavoring, however, to unite too many characters in a single flower. Say that a double flower is desired - there are three ways of producing this and possibly four. Unfortunately we have but two double flowers which produce seed, and both of these are double red, the one being a small dark red known as the Carnation - the other a red flower somewhat larger. Cross-pollinating a single flower on either of these doubles should produce a limited number of doubles, but a much greater number of single flowers. Cross-pollinating a double flower on either of these doubles will give more satisfactory results, and a larger number of doubles will be produced, but a certain number of single flowers may be expected. Cross-pollinating a double upon a single flower of a seedling variety will also produce a limited number of doubles.

It will be noted above that the crosses resulting

(There's more)

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